

Mandatory Language for Drinking Water **Public Notification**

September 2003



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Introduction

This guideline, “Mandatory Language for Drinking Water Public Notification” contains health effects and other mandatory information required for inclusion in notification to customers of public water systems experiencing certain violations of drinking water regulations.

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act 1996 Amendments and State of Washington Board of Health Rules and Regulations (Chapters 246-290 and 246-291 WAC) require public water systems to notify their customers when their drinking water exceeds specified levels of contaminants. The department regulation titled “Drinking Water Operating Permits” (Chapter 246-294 WAC) requires public notification, which includes specific mandatory language, when a public water system is issued a category red operating permit.

Acronyms

DBP	Disinfection Byproduct
MCL	Maximum contaminant level
MRDL	Maximum residual disinfectant level
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfectant level goal
SWTR TT	Surface water treatment rule Treatment technique
IESWTR TT	Interim Enhanced Surface water treatment rule Treatment technique
LT1 ESWTR	Long Term 1 Surface water treatment rule

This guideline contains all current mandatory language that must be included, word for word, in any public notification issued for violations involving the specific contaminants listed in the following pages.

Acrylamide

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing high levels of acrylamide over a long period of time could have problems with their nervous system or blood, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Alachlor

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing alachlor in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could have problems with their eyes, liver, kidneys, or spleen, or experience anemia, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Alpha Emitters

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Antimony

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing antimony well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience increases in blood cholesterol and decreases in blood sugar.

Arsenic

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Asbestos

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing asbestos in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may have an increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps.

Atrazine

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing atrazine well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their cardiovascular system or reproductive difficulties.

Barium

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

Benzene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing benzene in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience anemia or a decrease in blood platelets, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Benzo[a]pyrene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing benzo(a)pyrene in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may experience reproductive difficulties and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Beryllium

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing beryllium well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could develop intestinal lesions.

Beta/photon emitters

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Bromate

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing bromate in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Cadmium

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing cadmium in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience kidney damage.

Carbofuran

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing carbofuran in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their blood, or nervous or reproductive systems.

Carbon Tetrachloride

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing carbon tetrachloride in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Category Red Operating Permit

Mandatory Health Effects Language

*(**Water system name**) water system has been designated **Category Red** by the State Department of Health. The system is out of compliance with one or more drinking water requirements and is considered inadequate. The department has notified (**County name**) county that no further development should be allowed on the system.*

*Your system has been designated a **Category Red** because a.) It has been issued an order to correct a specific problem, b.) It has violated an order issued by the department, c.) It is significantly out of compliance with State Board of Health rules, and/or d.) It has more service connections than specifically allowed in approval documents (**List All That Apply**). To bring the system into compliance, the following actions have been required: (list specific actions required by conditions on the operating permit).*

Please contact the following person if you have questions or wish to express any concerns:

(Name of person designated as the water system contact)

(System address)

(Phone number of contact person)

If your system fails to carry out these requirements, further enforcement will be pursued by the Department of Health. This may include daily monetary fines, court actions, and/or placing the system in control of a qualified manager.

Chloramines

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who use water containing chloramines well in excess of the Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chloramines well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort or anemia.

Chlordane

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing chlordane in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver or nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Chlorine

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

Chlorobenzene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing chlorobenzene in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver or kidneys.

Chlorine Dioxide

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Chlorine dioxide, 0.8 (MRDLG) 0.8 (MRDL) where any 2 consecutive daily samples taken at the entrance to the distribution system are above the maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL). *Some infants and young children who drink water containing chlorine dioxide in excess of the MRDL could experience nervous system effects. Similar effects may occur in fetuses of pregnant women who drink water containing chlorine dioxide in excess of the MRDL. Some people may experience anemia. Add for public notification only: The chlorine dioxide violations reported today are the result of exceedances at the treatment facility only, not within the distribution system which delivers water to consumers. Continued compliance with chlorine dioxide levels within the distribution system minimizes the potential risk of these violations to consumers.*

Chlorine dioxide, 0.8 (MRDLG) 0.8 (MRDL) where one or more distribution system samples are above the maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL). *Some infants and young children who drink water containing chlorine dioxide in excess of the MRDL could experience nervous system effects. Similar effects may occur in fetuses of pregnant women who drink water containing chlorine dioxide in excess of the MRDL. Some people may experience anemia. Add for public notification only: The chlorine dioxide violations reported today include exceedances of the EPA standard within the distribution system which delivers water to consumers. Violations of the chlorine dioxide standard within the distribution system may harm human health based on short term exposures. Certain groups, including fetuses, infants, and young children, may be especially susceptible to nervous system effects from excessive chlorine dioxide exposure.*

Chlorite

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some infants and young children who drink water containing chlorite in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) could experience nervous system effects. Similar effects may occur in fetuses of pregnant women who drink water containing chlorite in excess of the MCL. Some people may experience anemia.

Chromium

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who use water containing chromium well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience allergic dermatitis.

Coliform (See Total Coliform and/or Fecal Coliform)

Combined Radium

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing radium in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Control of DBP Precursors

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the maximum contaminant level may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

Copper

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Cryptosporidium

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Cyanide

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing cyanide well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience nerve damage or problems with their thyroid.

Dalapon

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing dalapon well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience minor kidney changes.

2, 4-D

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing the weed killer 2,4-D well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their kidneys, liver, or adrenal glands.

Di[2-ethylhexyl]adipate

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience toxic effects such as weight loss, liver enlargement or possible reproductive difficulties.

Dibromochloropropane (DBCP)

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing DBCP in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience reproductive difficulties and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

O-Dichchlorobenzene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing o-dichlorobenzene well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or circulatory systems.

1,2-Dichloroethane

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing 1,2-dichloroethane in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

1,1-Dichloroethylene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing 1,1-dichloroethylene in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver.

cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing cis-1,2-dichloroethylene in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver.

trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing trans-1,2-dichloroethylene well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver.

Dichloromethane

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing dichloromethane in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could have liver problems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

1,2-Dichloropropane

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing 1,2-dichloropropane in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Dinoseb

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing dinoseb well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience reproductive difficulties.

Di[2-ethylhexyl]phthalate

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may have problems with their liver, or experience reproductive difficulties, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Diquat

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing diquat in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could get cataracts.

E. Coli (See Fecal Coliform and/or Total Coliform)

Endothall

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing endothall in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their stomach or intestines.

Endrin

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing endrin in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience liver problems.

Epichlorohydrin

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing high levels of epichlorohydrin over a long period of time could experience stomach problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Ethylbenzene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing ethylbenzene well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver or kidneys.

Ethylene Dibromide (EDB)

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing ethylene dibromide in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver, stomach, reproductive system, or kidneys, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Fecal coliforms/E. coli

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Fluoride

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

Giardia Lamblia

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Glyphosate

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing glyphosate in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their kidneys or reproductive difficulties.

Haloacetic Acids

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Heptachlor

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing heptachlor in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience liver damage and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Heptachlor Epoxide

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing heptachlor epoxide in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience liver damage, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Heterotrophic Plate Count

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Hexachlorobenzene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing hexachlorobenzene in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver or kidneys, or adverse reproductive effects, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Hexachlorocyclopentadiene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing hexachlorocyclopentadiene well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their kidneys or stomach.

Lead

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Legionella

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Lindane

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing lindane in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their kidneys or liver.

Mercury

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing inorganic mercury well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience kidney damage.

Methoxychlor

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing methoxychlor in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience reproductive difficulties.

Monochlorobenzene (See Chlorobenzene)

Nitrate

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the maximum contaminant level could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

Nitrite

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrite in excess of the maximum contaminant level could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

Oxamyl

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing oxamyl in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience slight nervous system effects.

P-Dichlorobenzene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing p-dichlorobenzene in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience anemia, damage to their liver, kidneys, or spleen, or changes in their blood.

Pentachlorophenol

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing pentachlorophenol in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver or kidneys, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Picloram

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing picloram in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience changes in their skin, problems with their thymus gland, immune deficiencies, or reproductive or nervous system difficulties, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Selenium

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Selenium is an essential nutrient. However, some people who drink water containing selenium in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience hair or fingernail losses, numbness in fingers or toes, or problems with their circulation.

Simazine

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing simazine in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their blood.

Styrene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing styrene well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could have problems with their liver, kidneys, or circulatory system.

2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin)

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing dioxin in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience reproductive difficulties and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Tetrachloroethylene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing tetrachloroethylene in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could have problems with their liver, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Thallium

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing thallium in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience hair loss, changes in their blood, or problems with their kidneys, intestines, or liver.

Toluene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing toluene well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could have problems with their nervous system, kidneys, or liver.

Total Coliforms

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Total Nitrate and Nitrite

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate and nitrite in excess of the maximum contaminant level could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

Total Trihalomethanes

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Toxaphene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing toxaphene in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could have problems with their kidneys, liver, or thyroid, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

2,4,5-TP (Silvex)

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing silvex in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience liver problems.

1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience changes in their adrenal glands.

1,1,1-Trichloroethane

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing 1,1,1-trichloroethane in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver, nervous system, or circulatory system.

1,1,2-Trichloroethane

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing 1,1,2-trichloroethane well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could have problems with their liver, kidneys, or immune systems.

Trichloroethylene

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing trichloroethylene in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience problems with their liver and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Turbidity (Maximum contaminant level)

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Turbidity (SWTR TT)

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Turbidity (IESWTR TT and LT1 ESWTR)

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Vinyl Chloride

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing vinyl chloride in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Viruses (SWTR/IESWTR/LT1ESWTR)

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Xylenes

Mandatory Health Effects Language

Some people who drink water containing xylenes in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience damage to their nervous system.